



ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

CALTRANS ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY PROGRAM

Who Can Participate?

- Individuals (Minors must be over 11 years of age.)
- Organizations
- Businesses
- City, county, state, and federal agencies



Participation

Participation can include one or more of the following activities:

- Removing litter from highways, Park and Ride lots, or vista points.
- Planting and establishing seedling trees,
- Planting and establishing wildflowers,
- Removing graffiti,
- Vegetation (weed) control
- Financially sponsoring roadside rest area maintenance,
- Financially sponsoring a roadside rest area Travel Service Information Center,



You Make the Choice

You may do the work with your own people, hire a contractor, or provide financial sponsorship.

You Get the Rewards

Aside from your own satisfaction, there is public recognition as well. Caltrans will place recognition signs on your adopted highway section. Caltrans will acknowledge your contribution with a certificate of appreciation when your project is complete.



Your Commitment

- Pick up litter for two years on a two-mile stretch of roadside (medians and pavement not included) 4 times a year or more, as specified in the Adopt-A-Highway permit, or
- Plant and establish approximately five acres of seedling trees/shrubs for two years according to an approved plan, or
- Plant and establish approximately three acres of wildflowers for two years according to an approved plan, or
- Clean or paint a section of wall or highway structure for two years.
- Control weeds on approximately five acres of right-of-way.
- Follow all safety and permit requirements.
- Provide custom logo or insignia panels if you want them on your recognition sign.



Our Commitment

- We loan you safety gear (hard hats, orange vests, gloves, safety glasses).
- We provide free trash bags and dispose of the trash you collect.
- We issue the Adopt-A-Highway permit at no charge.
- We pay for and install recognition sign(s).
- We assist you with planting plans and technical advice.
- We do not require insurance for volunteer participants.
- We provide a safety orientation prior to the start of your adoption.



Recognition Signs

Caltrans will place recognition signs at the beginning of your adoption project area. The size of signs is determined by local conditions.

The scheduling of sign placement and their size, content and location is at the sole discretion of Caltrans. This is determined before your permit is issued. Signs for one adopter can be no closer than four miles apart. Each sign includes a recognition panel with your name and, if you wish to provide it, your logo or insignia. Adopters may also provide customized recognition panels, subject to Caltrans approval. No products, slogans, phone or FAX numbers, electronic mail or Internet addresses, Ham Radio IDs, or directions are permitted on the sign. Street names may be approved under special conditions.

***“By the work one
knows the man”***

— Jean de la Fontaine

What is Adoptable?

Conventional highways, expressways and freeways are all adoptable. If you are planning to do the work with a volunteer crew, certain areas may be unadoptable due to safety considerations. However, if work will be done by a professional contractor, most areas will be open to adoption.

What if you Want a Section That is Already Adopted?

- Your name can be put on a waiting list.
- If the current adopter quits, you will have a chance to adopt that section according to your rank on the list.
- You may choose to participate in another type of adoption for that highway section.

Areas May Not be Adoptable if:

- They are already adopted.
- Access to work areas is unsafe.
- The work area is unsafe without traffic control.
- The shoulders or roadside are too narrow.
- Visibility is too restricted.
- Construction or other work is under way or planned.
- Traffic is too heavy or too close.
- Vehicle runoff potential is too high.
- Terrain is too rugged or vegetation is too dense.
- There is no area available or appropriate for planting.
- Site conditions are unsuitable for your group's age level or experience.
- Frequency of litter pickup is too great for your group.

Permit Renewals

- Permits may be renewed every two years.
- Renew your tree planting, wildflower, graffiti, vegetation control, or primary two-mile litter permit as many times as you want.
- You cannot transfer your permit to others.
- If you have more than one, two-mile, adopted litter section, you may be asked to relinquish a portion of your adopted area if another group is on the waiting list for a segment you have.

Permit Cancellations

- You, or Caltrans, may cancel anytime you are unable to meet the permit requirements.
- Permits may be temporarily suspended by Caltrans for safety reasons.

“The first requisite of a good citizen in this republic of ours is that he shall be able and willing to pull his own weight”

— Franklin Delano Roosevelt



Your Permit

- Read, understand and conform to the provisions in your permit.
- Provide a copy of safety requirements to each participant in your group.
- Conduct an initial safety meeting and discussion before you begin your project and also periodically throughout the year.
- Review safety requirements with your group each time before going out.
- Each work group must have a copy of the permit and safety requirements with them on the roadside.



Safety is Our Number One Concern

- A representative from each participating group must receive safety training prior to working on the highway.
- The program depends on the common sense and responsibility of individual participants.
- Participants must realize they are working in a potentially hazardous environment and diligently follow all safety requirements.
- Selection of adoptable locations minimizes risk.
- Participants hold the state harmless for death, injury or property damage which might have been prevented by their action.

Safety Gear and Clothing

- Wear hard hats, orange vests, gloves and safety glasses whenever you are out on the roadside – try them on ahead of time for proper fit.
- Soft caps are not acceptable substitutes for hard hats.
- Wear long pants and sturdy shoes or boots.
- Light-colored clothing, long-sleeved shirts and sunscreen are suggested.

Safe Access and Parking

- Park outside the freeway right-of-way and walk in, if possible.
- If you drive to freeway work areas, consolidate people into a few vehicles.
- Vehicles used to transport workers, equipment or materials to freeway work areas may be parked on the right-of-way if they are parked completely off the pavement, and at least six feet from the edge of the pavement.
- Never park on a bridge, in a tunnel or on any other structures.
- Do not park in grassy areas where your vehicle's exhaust system could start a fire.
- Do not use your emergency flashers when parked.
- If you are working some distance from your vehicle, display a copy of your permit in your vehicle's windshield for Highway Patrol Identification.
- Improperly parked vehicles may be ticketed or towed by the Highway Patrol.
- When you leave a freeway work site in your vehicle, use your signals, consider the speed of the traffic, wait for an adequate gap in traffic and pull onto the pavement carefully – once on the pavement, accelerate swiftly and smoothly.

Safety When on Foot

- Exit and enter your vehicle on the side away from traffic whenever possible.
- Walk and work facing oncoming traffic wherever possible – be alert and keep an eye on traffic.
- Do not walk on the roadway, shoulders or bridges.
- Do not enter tunnels or drainage facilities.
- Never work in the median or on the roadway or shoulders of freeways.
- Cross freeway ramps only at marked crosswalks.
- Use caution when crossing conventional highways. Use crosswalks and signals where available.

Safe Work Habits

- Do not work on holiday weekends or 24 hours before holiday weekends.
- Do not work when it is raining or foggy or when the road is wet or icy.
- Discontinue your work before dusk.
- Do not touch potentially hazardous materials such as powders, chemicals, weapons, sharp objects or dead animals. Contact your Caltrans representative if you discover ANY hazardous materials or objects.
- Avoid overexertion and drink plenty of water.
- Do not consume alcoholic beverages or drugs before entering or while on the right-of-way.

How to Get Started

- Select the location and type of adoption you want.
- Discuss the location and project with the local Caltrans Adopt-A-Highway coordinator.
- Develop a work plan for planting projects.
- If the area you are interested in adopting is available and safe for adoption, complete and submit a permit application to the local Caltrans Adopt-A-Highway coordinator.
- Once your permit is approved, schedule a safety training session with the Caltrans representative identified on your Adopt-A-Highway permit.
- Allow three to four months for sign placement.
- Notify Caltrans at least five days before each work event.
- Review and follow safety requirements.
- Perform the work satisfactorily.

“The energy, the faith, the devotion which we bring this endeavor will light our country and all who see it”

– John Fitzgerald Kennedy



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Key Steps



ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

1. Call your local Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator to discuss adoption opportunities in your area.
2. Send a completed Adopt-A-Highway Permit Application to your local Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator after determining the location and type of adoption you would like to do.
3. The Coordinator will contact you with an available section for you to adopt or place you on the wait list if no areas are currently available. If you are put on a wait list for the area you would like to adopt call your local Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator annually to discuss current adoption opportunities, and your current position on the wait list.
4. Once you receive your approved Adopt-A-Highway Permit your group leader must schedule a safety orientation with the Caltrans representative shown on the Adopt-A-Highway Permit.
5. Participate in safety orientation and collect your Adopt-A-Highway supplies from your Caltrans representative.
6. Your group leader should review safety requirements with all participants each time you go on the highway.
7. Contact your Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator if you do not understand any portion of your Adopt-A-Highway Permit.
8. Notify your local Caltrans representative shown on your permit at least 5 days prior to each work event.
9. Enjoy participating in the AAH program with the thousands of other dedicated Californians who clean and beautify our highways.

OUR GROUP'S CALTRANS REPRESENTATIVE

PHONE NUMBER

LOCAL ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY COORDINATOR

PHONE NUMBER